

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has restricted this application to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-6, drawn to a method for determining the susceptibility of a male pig to developing boar taint;
- II. Claims 7-10, drawn to a method for reducing or preventing boar taint by enhancing the activity of a CYP2E1 enzyme;
- III. Claims 7 and 11-13, drawn to a method for reducing or preventing boar taint by enhancing the activity of a sulfotransferase enzyme;
- IV. Claims 7 and 14-16, drawn to a method for reducing or preventing boar taint by decreasing the activity of a glucuronyl transferase enzyme;
- V. Claims 17-19, drawn to a method for screening for a substance that enhances the activity of CYP2E1;
- VI. Claims 20-22, drawn to a method for screening for a substance that enhances the activity of sulfotransferase;
- VII. Claims 23-25, drawn to a method for screening for a substance that inhibits the activity of glucuronyl transferase;
- VIII. Claim 26, drawn to a composition for reducing or preventing skatole metabolism by administering a substance that increases the activity or expression of CYP2E1 enzyme;
- IX. Claim 26, drawn to a composition for reducing or preventing skatole metabolism by administering a substance that increases the activity or expression of sulfotransferase; and

- X. Claim 26, drawn to a composition for reducing or preventing skatole metabolism by administering a substance that decreases the activity or expression of glucuronyl transferase.

The Applicants provisionally elects with traverse, those claims to Group I - claims 1-6, drawn to a method for determining the susceptibility of a male pig to developing boar taint.

Applicants submit that Groups I-VII are not independent. Independent means there is no disclosed relationship between two or more disclosed subjects, i.e., they are unconnected in operation or effect. In Groups I-VII, the relationship exists and that the groups are directed to boar taint, i.e., high levels of steroids or skatole, and determining the susceptibility of the pig to boar taint as well as reducing or providing boar taint.

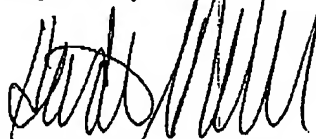
Groups VIII-X are related to the method of Group I because the compositions in Group VIII-X are used to influence or effect the enzymes detected by the methods of Group I. Applicants respectfully submit the Examiner has not provided an alternative use where Groups VIII-X can be used; therefore, Applicants respectfully request this restriction be withdrawn.

Furthermore, the compositions of Groups VIII-X are not distinct as these compositions all influence skatole metabolism. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that only one search will be required to examine the claims.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this response; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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